(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) No proposal has been received by the Department of Posts for release of a postage stamp on the eve of 300th anniversary of Gur-da-gaddi in Nanded.

Villages without VPTs

3236. SHRI S.ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) provided by BSNL during each month of the last one year, State-wise;

(b) the number of villages which still remain without VPTs, State-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that all the villages in the country would be provided with VPTs by the end of 2007;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the justifications therefor; and

(e) if not, the steps proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR.SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) A statement indicating the circle-wise number of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in each month of the last financial year from 01-04-2004 to 31-03-2005 is given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) A Statement indicating the circle-wise number of villages without VPT is given in the Statement-II (*See* below). This excludes villages having less than 100 population, lying in thick forest area/naxalite infested areas etc.

(c) to (e) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has signed an agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in November, 2004 for provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in the remaining 66,822 unconnected villages which are inhabited and do not lie in thick forest areas/naxalite infested areas. These villages will be covered progressively by November, 2007.

Out of these unconnected villages, 14,233 villages have been provided with VPTs as on 31-10-2005.

Statement-I

Circle-wise and Month-wise number of VPTs provided by BSNL during last financial year 2004-05

Sl. No.	Name of the Circle	April, 2004	May, 2004	June, 2004	July, 2004	Aug., 2004	Sept., 2004	Oct., 2004	Nov., 2004	Dec., 2004	Jan., 2005	Feb., 2005	March, 2005	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	167	180
2.	Assam	53	56	336	379	433	226	167	59	121	83	24	19	1956
3.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	46	0	0	18	64
4.	Gujarat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	455	293	382	1130
5.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	26	1	11	31	7	18	20	40	13	21	13	201
7.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	637	839	622	451	2549
8.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	62	105	167
9.	Maharashtra	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	110	747	580	1437
10.	North East-I	17	0	11	47	0	0	11	29	31	7	0	14	167
11.	North East-II	13	2	6	0	131	88	1	1	3	10	1	13	269
12.	Orissa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Rajasthan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	92	80	896	1073
14.	Uttaranchal	1	0	8	1	29	5	0	1	25	25	4	12	111
	TOTAL:	84	84	362	442	624	326	197	110	909	1635	1867	2670	9310

Note: In following telecom circles, all eligible villages have already been provided with VPTs (This excludes villages having population less than 100 and those lying in thick forest/naxalite infested areas etc.):

1. Andaman & Nicobar
2. Bihar
3. Haryana
4. Karnataka
5. Kerala
6. Punjab
7. Tamil Nadu
8. Uttar Pradesh (East)
9. Uttar Pradesh (West)
10. West Bengal
11. Calcutta
12. Delhi.

Statement-II

Circle-wise number of villages without village public telephones (VPTs) as on 31-10-2005

Sl. No.	Name of the circle	No. of uncovered villages
1.	Andhra Pradesh	866
2.	Assam	6,852
3.	Jharkhand	1,664
4.	Gujarat	2,364
5.	Himachal Pradesh	768
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	1,543
7.	Madhya Pradesh	8,233
8.	Chhattisgarh	4,350
9.	Maharashtra	4,523
10.	North East-I	2,051
11.	North East-II	1,520
12.	Orissa	4,899
13.	Rajasthan	9,273
14.	Uttaranchal	3,683
	TOTAL:	52,589

Expenditure in Telecom Sector

3237. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to spend Rs. 17,186 crore on Telecom Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the BSNL plans tc provide 75 lakh lines during 2005-06; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) and